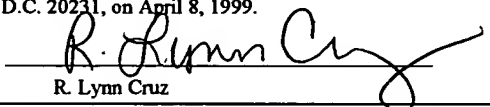


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Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on April 8, 1999.


R. Lynn Cruz

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Barry Anthony MURRER et al.

Serial No.: 08/913,960

Filing Date: 2 January 1998

For: PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITION
CONTAINING SELECTED
LANTHANUM CARBONATE
HYDRATES

Examiner: D. Jones

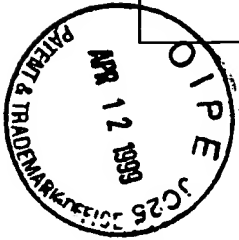
Group Art Unit: 1614

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Box AF
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is in response to an Office action herein mailed 28 January 1999, time for response to which is set to expire 28 April 1999. Claims 7 and 8 were objected to as dependent on a claim that was not allowed but were otherwise considered allowable. Claims 1-3, 5 and 10-13 were rejected and the rejection was made final. Applicants greatly appreciate the thoughtfulness shown by the Examiner to their undersigned representative in an interview on 31 March 1999 regarding this application. Applicants are further gratified that agreement was reached that the pending claims are allowable over the one remaining document cited -- the Abstract related to the Junji patent application Japanese Serial No. 60/284212. However, the Examiner wished to reserve final judgment until the entire document in translation could be obtained and reviewed. It is believed that the complete document does not defeat patentability of the claims.



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